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JAPAN.

Except dysentery, sanitary conditions good.

YOKOHAMA, JAPAN, September 13, 1900.

SIR: I have the honor to inform you that, save the continuance of epidemic dysentery, of which I am unable at present to forward statistics, the sanitary condition of Japan is good. Since my last report, of September 4, with the exception of a case of suspected plague which was returned from Hamamatsu, in Shidzuoka Ken, between Osaka and Yokohama, but which, however, appears to have been mistakenly diagnosed, neither plague nor cholera has been detected in Japan proper.

Respectfully,

STUART ELDRIDGE,

Acting Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.

The SURGEON-GENERAL,

U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.

Further concerning the case of plague on the steamship Coptic.

YOKOHAMA, JAPAN, September 13, 1900.

SIR: In connection with the case of plague among the passengers of steamship *Coptic*, at Kobe, upon her outward voyage from San Francisco to Hongkong, which I reported under date of August 31, I would add that farther investigation has convinced me that the case was, undoubtedly, one of the true bubo-pneumonic pest. I have also learned that, after the removal of the patient to the quarantine hospital, upon cleaning the compartment which he had occupied, 3 dead rats were found, evidently deceased but a few hours, and that in these the plague bacillus was demonstrated. The closest search, however, failed to discover more dead rats in any part of the ship, either then or after discharging in Hongkong. It looks, therefore, as though the rats found dead were infected by the sputa of the human victim, rather than that the disease in him was derived from these vermin. Altogether the case suggests, as I said in my former report, an infection by effects.

Respectfully,

STUART ELDRIDGE,

Acting Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.

The SURGEON-GENERAL,

U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.

NICARAGUA.

Report from Bluefields—Fruit port.

BLUEFIELDS, NICARAGUA, September 26, 1900.

SIR: I have the honor to submit the following weekly report: Two steamships have been inspected and cleared for New Orleans, the *Esther*, with 5 passengers and 8 pieces of disinfected baggage, and the *Alabama*, with no passengers. The passengers on the *Esther* were Nicaraguan diplomatic officials on their way to their posts of duty, and the steamship company gave them passage, knowing the probability of their detention by the Louisiana State board of health. Copies of certificates given them and to masters of ships are inclosed. Two deaths were reported in Bluefields for the week ended September 23, viz, 1 native, adult, of nephritis, and 1 native, adult, of bilious fever. The sanitary condition of this port and vicinity continues good.

Respectfully,

D. W. GOODMAN,

Acting Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.

The SURGEON-GENERAL,

U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.

BLUEFIELDS, NICARAGUA, *September 30, 1900.*

SIR: I have the honor to submit my report for the week ended September 30. Two steamships, the *John Wilson* and *Condor*, have been inspected and cleared for New Orleans, neither carrying passengers. The masters were furnished with the proper certificates attached to the bills of health; copies of said certificates are inclosed. Two deaths have occurred in Bluefields for the week—1 native, male, adult, drowned, and 1 native, female, adult, "sudden death, cause unknown." The sanitary condition of this port and adjacent territory continues good.

Respectfully,

D. W. GOODMAN,

Acting Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.

The SURGEON-GENERAL,

U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.

Reported epidemic among rats and pigs at Managua denied.

BLUEFIELDS, NICARAGUA, *September 24, 1900.*

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of Bureau letter (G.) of September 6, 1900, in regard to the reported epidemic among the rats and pigs at Managua, Nicaragua. I had heard rumors of such a condition existing, and had written to the United States consul asking for information thereof. Communication between Managua and Bluefields is very limited and uncertain, weeks elapsing sometimes between the arrivals of mails; in consequence I have not yet received a reply. Yesterday Hon. L. F. Corea, Nicaraguan minister to the United States, arrived here from Managua en route to Washington, D. C. A conversation was held with him on the subject, and he assured me the matter was grossly exaggerated, that there was no epidemic, that the increased number of deaths among rats and pigs was caused by poisoned food intended for the former, but unexpectedly obtained by the latter; that when he left Managua September 15 all traces of the trouble were gone. At my request the port physician has written to the health officer of Managua, and on receipt of information from him and the United States consul I will communicate further on the subject.

Respectfully,

D. W. GOODMAN,

Acting Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.

The SURGEON-GENERAL,

U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.

Quarterly report of transactions at Bluefields.

BLUEFIELDS, NICARAGUA, *September 30, 1900.*

SIR: I have the honor to report that for the trimester ended to-day 28 steamships, all engaged in the fruit trade, have been inspected and cleared from this port; they carried 28 passengers, having 31 pieces of disinfected baggage.

There have been 28 deaths in Bluefields, 5 of malarial fever, 3 of dysentery, 4 of tuberculosis, 2 of dropsy, and 1 each of the following: Dentition, rheumatic fever, convulsions, pyæmia, nephritis, drowned, unknown, general debility, intestinal invagination, heart disease, anæmia, senility, pharyngitis, and uterine hemorrhage.

The majority of the deaths from malarial fever and from dysentery (another manifestation of malaria) were in persons brought from the plantations several miles distant from Bluefields.

The rainy season, which commenced about May 15 and is still on, has been characterized by frequent but not as heavy rains as last year;